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From the Office of the Director of Health

Individual Responsibility Important to Protecting Water Supply

An increase in population, construction projects and water run-off highlight the need for community involvement in protecting our water supply. According to the 2005 Environmental Report Card, the average Greene County resident uses approximately 75 gallons of water each day. With a 2004 estimated population of more than 260,000 residents, our water supply must be protected.

“The environmental report card shows the interconnectivity of drinking water, storm water and wastewater”, says environmental health planner Karen McKinnis. “It is our hope that the report card will raise awareness and help people understand the impact we all have on our limited water resources.”

McKinnis adds the public can take simple steps to help protect our water resources.

- Install low-flow toilets and showerheads.
- Limit water usage for personal care activities such as showering.
- Run dishwashers on water and energy conserving settings.
- When doing laundry, select the load size that best corresponds to the quantity of clothing you are washing.
- Inspect and repair water leaks. (A worn washer in a faucet can leak 20 gallons of water a day.)
- Water gardens and lawns during the early morning hours and only as needed.
- Properly direct lawn sprinklers so the water spray lands on the yard.
- Fertilize lawns as needed.
- Utilize household hazardous waste disposal events to properly remove unwanted products.
- When landscaping, plan areas so stormwater runoff is slowed or eliminated.

This third annual environmental report card is a collaborative effort between the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Springfield City Utilities, Springfield-Greene County Environmental Advisory Board, Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, City of Springfield Public Works, City of Springfield Planning and Development, Ozark Greenways and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks. It focuses on five environmental health indices – water quality, community health, solid waste/recycling, air quality and population growth.

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